

THE LEGEND of SLEEPY HOLLOW

By
WASHINGTON IRVING



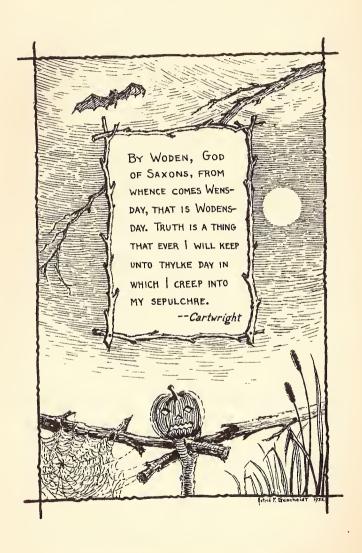
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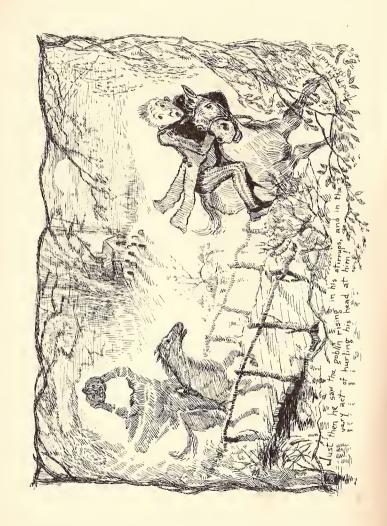
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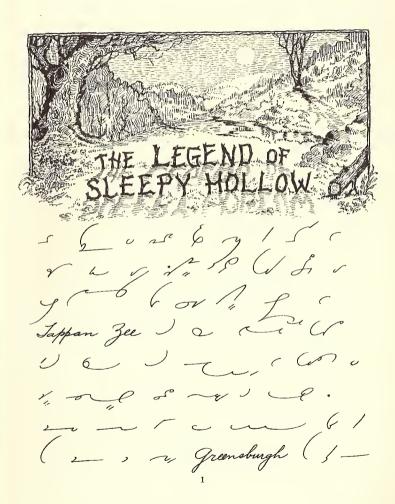
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ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASTRID F. GESCHEIDT SHORTHAND PLATES WRITTEN BY WINIFRED KENNA RICHMOND







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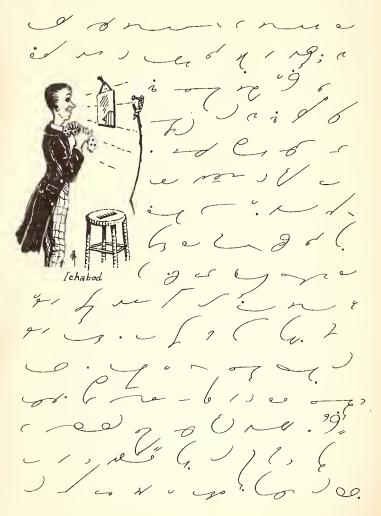
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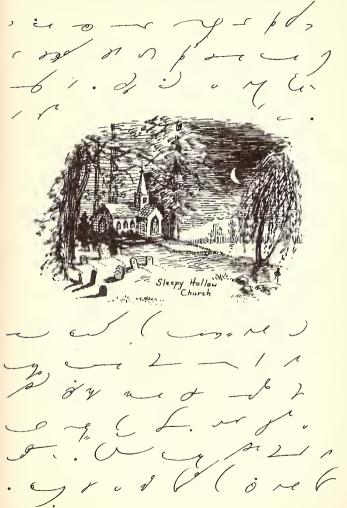
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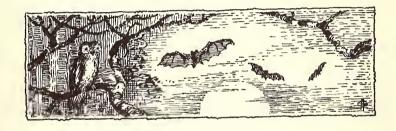
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POSTSCRIPT

Found in the Handwriting of Mr. Knickerbocker.

The preceding tale is given almost in the precise words in which I heard it related at a Corporation meeting of the ancient city of Manhattoes, at which were present many of its sagest and most illustrious burghers. The narrator was a pleasant, shabby, gentlemanly old fellow in pepper-and-salt clothes, with a sadly humorous face; and one whom I strongly suspected of being poor, - he made such efforts to be entertaining. When his story was concluded there was much laughter and approbation, particularly from two or three deputy aldermen, who had been asleep the greater part of the time. There was, however, one tall, dry-looking old gentleman, with beetling eyebrows, who maintained a grave and rather severe face throughout; now and then folding his arms, inclining his head, and looking down upon the floor, as if turning a doubt over in his mind. He was one of your wary men, who never laugh but upon good grounds --when they have reason and the law on their side. When the mirth of the rest of the company had subsided, and silence was restored, he leaned one arm on the elbow of his chair, and sticking the other akimbo, demanded, with a slight but exceedingly sage motion of the head, and contraction of the brow, what was the moral of the story, and what it went to prove.

The story-teller, who was just putting a glass of wine to his lips, as a refreshment after his toils, paused for a moment,

looked at his inquirer with an air of infinite deference, and, lowering the glass slowly to the table, observed that the story was intended most logically to prove:

"That there is no situation in life but has its advantages and pleasures, provided we will but take a joke as we find it;

"That, therefore, he that runs races with goblin troopers is likely to have rough riding of it;

"Ergo, for a country schoolmaster to be refused the hand of a Dutch heiress is a certain step to high preferment in the state."

The cautious old gentleman knit his brows tenfold closer after this explanation, being sorely puzzled by the ratiocination of the syllogism; while, methought, the one in pepper-and-salt eyed him with something of a triumphant leer. At length he observed that all this was very well, but still he thought the story a little on the extravagant; there were one or two points on which he had his doubts.

"Faith, sir," replied the story-teller, "as to that matter, I don't believe one half of it myself."

D. K.



NOTES ON THE STORY

- 2 inveterate, established by long continuance; long-standing; habitual.
- propensity, natural inclination; leaning.
- 2 advert, to turn the mind or attention to.
- 2 stripling, a youth; lad.
- *sequestered*, secluded.
- 3 rustic, of or pertaining to the country.
- 4 pervade, to spread through the whole of.
- 4 *reverie*, deep or abstracted musing; daydream; state of being lost in thought.
- 5 *meteors*, the small solid bodies in the solar system which become heated to incandescence by friction in passing through the earth's atmosphere; shooting stars.
- 5 gambols, leapings about in frolic.
- Germany, hired by the British Government during the Revolution to fight in America. The custom of using mercenary soldiers was common at the time. After the war the Hessians were offered the choice of being sent home or of taking up farm lands in the British Colony of Nova Scotia. Many of them accepted the latter offer, and their descendants may be found in the original district today.
- 8 wight, a person; being; creature.

- 8 cognomen, surname.
- 10 withe, a flexible twig or branch used as a band.
- 10 conning, studying; committing to memory; regarding studiously.
- 10 peradventure, perhaps; possibly; it may be.
- 12 convoy, guide; to accompany for protection.
- 12 dilating, extending or enlarging in size; expanding.
- 12 anaconda, a large snake that crushes its prey.
- onerous, oppressive; troublesome; burdensome.
- 13 drones, sluggards living in idleness.
- ingratiating, bringing into favor by a sedulous and often servile effort to please.
- 14 whilom, erstwhile; formerly.
- 16 supernumerary, exceeding a necessary or usual number.
- 16 bumpkins, country louts.
- 17 erudition, the result of thorough instruction; characterized by reading and knowledge.
- 17 capacious, able to contain much.
- 18 whimpered, cried with a whining, broken sound.
- 18 wended, directed.
- 18 boding, prophetic.
- 19 varlet, a low fellow; scoundrel; knave.
- 19 fearful pleasure, pleasure that is full of fears.
- 19 goblins, spirits usually conceived as ugly, grotesque and as mischievous and evil.
- 20 portentous, forecasting evil.
- 22 perambulations, walks.
- 22 withal, at the same time; moreover.

- 22 coquette, a woman who seeks to attract men's admiration to gratify her vanity; a flirt.
- 23 stomacher, an ornamental covering for the breast.
- 24 flail, an instrument for threshing grain by hand.
- 24 martins, certain European swallows.
- 24 eaves, the projecting lower edges of a roof.
- 25 unwieldy, unmanageable from bulk or weight.
- 27 chanticleer, the cock.
- 27 quarter, mercy; clemency.
- 28 trumpery, trash; rubbish.
- 29 resplendent, shining with brilliance and lustre; splendid.
- 29 linsey-woolsey, coarse cloth made of a mixture of linen and wool.
- 31 labyrinth, a place full of intricate passageways; a maze.
- 31 portal, a door or entrance, esp. one which is grand and imposing.
- 32 burly, coarse; rough.
- 33 ascendancy, domination; power.
- 34 squall, a harsh piercing cry.
- 34 rantipole, wild; unruly.
- 35 amorous, loving; fond.
- 35 amours, love affairs.
- 36 supple-jack, a climbing plant with a strong supple stem.
- 37 redoubtable, formidable; worthy of respect.
- 39 preceptor, a teacher.
- 39 wary, cautious of danger.
- 41 ferule, a piece of wood or a ruler used in striking children on the hand in punishment.

- 42 cap of Mercury, Mercury, the messenger of the gods, was represented as wearing a close-fitting winged cap.
- 42 hubbub, a loud noise of many voices shouting at once; an uproar.
- 43 furbishing, polishing; renovating.
- 44 choleric, irascible; angry; wrathful.
- 44 gaunt, lean.
- 45 *mettle.* quality of temperament; spirit esp. as regards honor, courage.
- 45 filly, a female colt.
- 45 *pommel*, the knoblike protuberance at the front and top of a saddlebow.
- 46 monteiro, a horseman's or huntsman's cap, having a round crown with flaps which could be drawn down over the sides of the face.
- 47 querulous, apt to find fault, habitually complaining.
- 47 gorget, a collar.
- 48 culinary, of or pertaining to the kitchen or cookery.
- 49 treacle, molasses obtained in sugar refining.
- 49 undulation, a wavy appearance.
- 50 sloop, a sailboat having one mast and certain other rigging.
- 51 queued, gathered in a pig-tail.
- 52 buxom, having health, vigor and a gay lively manner; jolly.
- 53 quinces, the apple-like fruit of a certain tree or shrub of the apple family.
- 54 niggardly, miserly; stingy.
- 56 oglings, amorous or coquettish looks.
- 57 marauding, roving in quest of plunder.